



# NEWS RELEASE

SBA Number : 06-13-0320  
Release Date: Immediate

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## SBA NAMES COMBUSTION ASSOCIATES EXPORTER OF THE YEAR 2006



SANTA ANA, CA – Mukund and Kusum Kavia, President and Vice President, respectively, of Combustion Associates, Inc. (CAI) of Corona, CA have been named *Small Business Exporters of the Year 2006* by the Santa Ana District Office of the U. S. Small Business Administration's (SBA). The District serves Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino Counties. Their selection was announced by District Director J. Adalberto Quijada who said, "Combustion Associates is an excellent example of how a small business can grow through international sales and thus have a bigger impact on our local economy."

The Kavia's were nominated by Richard Brown, Business Consultant at the Orange County Small Business Development Center (SBDC) for their tenacity and entrepreneurial drive which has kept them active and thriving despite setbacks. CAI was recognized in 2005 by the U.S. Department of Commerce (DOC) Minority Business Development Center as the Minority Manufacturer of the Year in the Greater Southern California Area and was awarded 1<sup>st</sup> Runner-Up by the DOC at the regional level, which encompasses the entire Western United States including Hawaii and Alaska.

CAI is an engineering and manufacturing firm that specializes in custom engineered equipment in the energy, process, environmental and safety industries. Founded more than 15 years ago CAI is a family-owned business certified by the SBA in the 8(a) Business Development Program since 2002. The company offers a wide array of packaged burners, water heaters, ovens, combustion and fuel delivery systems and turbine-generator systems which are cost and energy efficient without compromising quality. CAI's Safety Division provides OSHA-certified Fall Protection Systems. CAI's major markets are power plants, oil and gas refineries and landfill operations. Major customers include state, federal and local governments, General Motors, Tucson Electric Power Co., Turbo Genset Co. UK, and Exxon Mobil. They have sold a tire recycling system to China, industrial heaters to a company in Qatar (Middle East), fall prevention systems to China, and power generation systems to Central America and the Caribbean.

Mr. and Mrs. Kavia will be honored at the SBA's Small Business Award Luncheon on Tuesday, April 18, 2006 at The Grove of Anaheim in Anaheim, CA. For more information contact the Orange County Small Business Development Center at 714-564-5202.

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